

Tenth Annual Finance Conference Certifying Officer Legislation



**Renaissance Cleveland
Hotel**

**Tower City Center
Cleveland, Ohio**

March 28-30, 2000

**Presenters:
Ms. Ida Bryant**

Certifying Officer Legislation (COL)



- **Background**
- **Key Personnel**
- **DFAS Implementation**
- **Implementation - Status**
- **Key Issues**
- **Future Initiatives**

COL - Background



- **Liability**
 - Prior to 1996
- **1996 Legislation (It's the Law)**
 - Department of Defense has been directed to implement Certifying Officer Legislation
- **Delegation of Appointment Authority**
 - Assistant Secretary of Navy (Financial Management & Comptroller)
 - August 23, 1999 Memorandum delegates appointment authority to Commanders

Key Personnel



- **Disbursing Officer**
 - Disburse money based on vouchers certified by authorized Certifying Officers
 - Complete pecuniary liability for disbursement of uncertified vouchers
- **Certifying Officer**
 - Certifies that the information on a voucher or payment file is legal, proper and correct
 - Uses information provided by other individuals or supporting systems
 - Full pecuniary liability

Key Personnel



- **Accountable Official**
 - Supports the Certifying Officer with timely and accurate data, information and/or service
 - Limited pecuniary liability
- **Review Official**
 - Conducts post payment reviews of payments certified by the Certifying Officer
 - Issues inquiries - Requests explanation of why a payment was certified

DFAS - Implementation

- **Phase I - Certifying Officer**
 - Designation and Appointment
 - Supervisory positions only
- **Phase II - Accountable Official**
 - Pending union negotiations
 - Majority are bargaining unit employees
- **Phase III - Review Official**
 - To Be Determined

Implementation - Status

- **Phase I - Appointment of Certifying Officers**
 - Letters prepared for selected Areas of Responsibility (AOR)
 - Projected completion date May 31, 2000
- **Phase II - Appointment of Accountable Officials**
 - Pending union negotiations scheduled for first week April 2000

COL - Key Issues



- **Identify interfaces with Navy**
 - Which areas within the pay process requires a Certifying Officer (certification) on the Service side, i.e. Travel pay, Vendor pay, etc.
- **Standardization Among the Services**
 - Ensure the Certifying Officers and Accountable Officials are in the same positions across the services

COL - Future Initiatives

- **Coordinate with Navy on COL Appointments**
 - Provide matrix with proposed Certifying Officers based on payment type
 - Establish rules regarding the acceptance of data into the payment process
- **Share Experiences**
 - Lessons learned

Questions

